



# **The Roosevelt's and Civil Rights of Minorities**

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# Who Really Were The Roosevelts?



- Eleanor Roosevelt was the wife of our 32<sup>nd</sup> president, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.
- She transformed the role of the First Lady by being active in her husband's presidency.
- She was a major advocate of rights of minorities and women.

# Eleanor Roosevelt's Other Efforts

- She saw becoming the First Lady as an opportunity to help disadvantaged people across the country.
- She would host regular “egg-scrambles” every Sunday and anyone could come to discuss problems they face and how to overcome them.
- After FDR died, she became a lecturer on human rights.



# Eleanor's Involvement In the National Consumers League

- ◉ She was vice-president of the league and testified for them periodically.
- ◉ During this time, the league focused on child labor, national health insurance, improved food and drug laws, social security, and unemployment insurance.\*



# Eleanor Roosevelt vs. Japanese Internment

- After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, all Japanese-Americans were sent into War-Recollection Centers.
- Eleanor believed that it was wrong to judge a person by their race even though many people felt anger towards them after losing loved ones in the bombing.
- She decided to separate the disloyal people from the innocent ones in these centers and said they would go back to Japan after the war while the ones who were 100 percent loyal to the U.S.A. would remain there.

# Eleanor's Continued Actions In The United Nations

- Eleanor was the only woman in the delegation and was involved in it for 7 years.
- She was unanimously voted the chair of the Commission of Human Rights. She also chaired the subcommittee in charge of drafting The Declaration of Human Rights.
- She was the United Nations' most noted ambassador.



Eleanor Roosevelt confers with John Foster Dulles and George Marshall at the UN, Sept. 9, 1947

# My Day

- Eleanor wrote a column called “My Day” which was in the paper 6 days a week from 1935 to 1962.
- She addressed different social and political issues in society.
- “... It means the right of survival of human beings and their right to grow and improve. You and I may be hated by our neighbors, but if we know about it we try to change the things within us which brought it about. That is the way civilized people develop; murder and annihilation are never a satisfactory answer for the few, who escape grow up more bitter against their persecutors, and a day of reckoning always comes...” – Jews in Europe



# Refugees from Germany

- ◉ Eleanor made it easier for refugees from Germany to enter the country
- ◉ An official and unofficial advisor to groups trying to aid refugees from Spanish Civil War
- ◉ Lobbied for Child Refugee Bill
- ◉ Spoke out against the restrictive visa policies of Breckinridge long and worked with Assistant Secretary of State Sumner Welles to issue more entrance Visas



# Mexican-Americans

- In 1930 1.1 million Mexicans had moved to the U.S., however, the Great Depression put them out of jobs
- WW2 many joined the American military
- During the Sailor Riots of 1943 (aka the Zoot Suit Riots), American sailors attacked the Mexican-American
- During war, southwest needed labor to meet war-time demands
- Mrs. Roosevelt referred to these Riots as “race riots”, and strongly disapproved.

# Articles Pertaining to Civil Rights of Minorities

- 2, 5, 7, 10, 15, 16, 18, 27, 28; all relate to the individual and cumulative rights of minorities.
- Virtually each article in the Declaration begins with “Everyone”, therefore, every right pertain to all persons.
- Human Rights Speech

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